National Congress Bulletin

October 1941 Published by The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Chicago, Ill. Vol. 9, No. 2

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the future of our nation and the future of a just and generous civilization are dependent upon future generations whose eyes are open, whose spirit is alive, and whose mental and social attitudes, skills, and knowledge are adequate for consecrated leadership;

Whereas we recognize that there are certain inalienable rights of childhood that must be safeguarded — the right to be well born; the right to grow in stature physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially; the right to be protected from physical and moral hazards; the right to enjoy "justice, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness";

Whereas we have learned that strength to mold all that has been gained by recent discoveries and achievements into a rich and harmonious order lies in united effort and that unity of both purpose and effort can be attained through the fellowship of the parent-teacher movement,

I, the president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, call upon our faithful membership to enroll in our ranks the parents, the teachers, and the other citizens of the nation so that increasing service can be rendered to all the children of the nation and so that each child of the nation may come to the fullness of life. And to that end I proclaim to the parent-teacher units of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers the month of October as National Membership Month.

Virginia Klebs

President

IN defense of our "American way" of life the National Congress of Parents and Teachers can make a contribution of far-reaching importance through its network of state and local organizations in serving the homes of the Nation. It can so mold its program as to influence millions of homes and furnish answers to many questions, such as: What kind of training and experience on the job should parents have to help them solve their home and family problems? How and where can this training be obtained? What can the home do to strengthen a democracy? Where do children get their ideas of citizenship and democracy?

JOHN W. STUDEBAKER
U. S. Commissioner of Education

National Board Expands Defense Program

AT THE September meeting the National Board, realizing that the pattern of world conditions is constantly shifting, necessitating periodic check-ups of all programs of work in current use, acted to implement further the principles laid down in the first official statement of the National Congress on the world situation (June-July *Bulletin*, 1940) and the additional suggestions made in the second official statement, which was adopted by the Executive Committee on January 17 of this year. New needs and new aspects of old needs have arisen since these statements were issued, and it was necessary to broaden and diversify the program to include them.

The National Board, accordingly, set up workshops to make an exhaustive study of defense needs as they exist at present. The results of these studies have been issued in a detailed report, entitled "What the Parent-Teacher Association Can Do in National Defense." This, the third official statement dealing with the national crisis, includes recommendations on (1) morale; (2) cooperative service; (3) health; (4) nutrition in general; (5) nutrition as related to the school lunch program; (6) education; (7) safety; (8) recreation; (9) aid to the boys in training; (10) defense bonds and savings; and (11) volunteer service. It is a highly revealing document, indicating an unexpectedly wide field of possible service to the community and to the nation.

CONCERTED action in each of these areas will result in widespread benefit. There is a genuine opportunity to build for future generations as well as for the generation now growing into maturity. Not only will the children and youth of America profit by our efforts during the present stress and strain, but the years following the emergency will hold a brighter promise as a result of our contribution.

Somewhere in the broad field of activities outlined by the National Board there is a particular challenge to every local unit and to every individual member in the United States. Let us prepare to meet that challenge effectively.

National Committees at Work

Character and Spiritual Education

"THE educated person gives responsible direction to his own life." No man can be called truly educated who has not learned to govern himself and his affairs by principles so firmly fixed, so deeply rooted in his spiritual and emotional nature that to act responsibly according to his highest conception of his duty is his immediate response to any situation. When these unyielding principles, in their turn, are based upon reverent faith in God, universal good will toward mankind, and the love of service, there emerges the completed product of the whole educational process, the fully developed, adult human being. On him today, as always, the safety of the world depends.

The Committee on Character Education of the National Congress, recognizing the heightened need of character in a changing world, urges all Congress members and all parents and teachers everywhere to build into the lives of the boys and girls in their charge the steadfast principles that enabled our forefathers to hew America out of the wilderness. "Deep religious conviction," writes Mrs. Nathaniel E. White, national chairman of Character and Spiritual Education, "impelled our forefathers to seek a far country and face unknown hardship and danger." And deep religious conviction is what we need today. Let us seek it devotedly.

Reading and Library Service

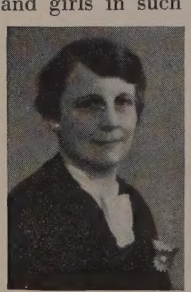
"FORWARD WITH BOOKS," the theme for this year's observance of Book Week (November 2 to 8) might well be taken as the theme for the activities of the Committee on Reading and Library Service throughout the year. We *are* moving forward with books, and we intend to continue to do so. By means of bookmobiles and county libraries, books have been brought into communities which never had them before, and plans are being made by the states for constant extension of these services.

A particularly stimulating aspect of our national program to move "forward with books" is the fact that in this democracy of ours we still may choose the books we wish to read. No rigid censorship is imposed upon us; we are not directed to read books propounding a certain philosophy and to close our minds to all others. We have freedom of choice, and we have abundant access to accurate information in our public libraries and schools. These are rights and privileges which are denied the citizens of many other parts of the world. They are well worth an all-out effort to defend them.

The attention of chairmen of Reading and Library Service throughout the country is once more called to the fine series on children's reading now being presented in the *National Parent-Teacher*. "Let us," urges Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, National Chairman, "observe Book Week the year round."

Juvenile Protection

"I MANAGE an institution which cares for three hundred and sixty delinquent boys . . . In the entire nation there are about twenty-eight thousand boys and girls in such institutions, and probably three times as many have left such institutions and are on parole."



These statements were made by Clinton W. Areson at the national convention in Boston. No more concise summary of the challenge confronting the Committee on Juvenile Protection can be formulated. To study the conditions that produce delinquency, to strive in every way possible to correct them, and to do what we can to rehabilitate the young offender when we have reached him too late to prevent his mistake—these are tasks that cannot be ignored. Mrs. Arch J. West, national chairman of Juvenile Protection, urges the importance and value of spiritual guidance as a preventive measure. Nothing else can do so much to give the child a sense of his own intrinsic worth and of his personal place in a rational and moral universe.

Continued attention to everything that may serve to forestall the initial step in the wrong direction is earnestly advocated.

American Education Week

NOVEMBER 9-15

SCHOOL Education chairmen of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers can help to bring about a deeper public understanding and appreciation of the schools by encouraging and cooperating wholeheartedly in the observance of American Education Week, November 9 to 15. Charl Ormond Williams, national chairman, points out that chairmen can help not only by encouraging parents to visit the school during the week set aside for that purpose but by cooperating with school officials in the planning and execution of the week's programs.

THIS twenty-first observance, sponsored jointly by the National Education Association, the American Legion, the United States Office of Education, and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, has as its theme "Education for a Strong America."

Mounting demands for public funds promise to make the financing of education increasingly difficult. The following daily topics will be the basis for talks, articles, and radio programs which will show the importance of education in the national defense program:

Sunday, November 9
- Seeking World Order

Monday, November 10
- Building Physical Fitness

Tuesday, November 11
- Strengthening National Morale

Wednesday, November 12
- Improving Economic Well-Being

Thursday, November 13
- Safeguarding School Support

Friday, November 14
- Learning the Ways of Democracy

Saturday, November 15
- Enriching Family Life

Program aids which may be ordered from the National Education Association are:

1. A one-and-a-half-minute sound-movie trailer, entitled "Education for a Strong America." Features Lowell Thomas as narrator. $7.50 per copy.

2. Two new plays, "And the Stars Heard" (15 cents) and "We Hold These Truths" (25 cents), written by Jean Byers. Designed for use in the upper elementary grades and the high school respectively.

Federal Aid Available for Communities in Defense Areas

PARENT-TEACHER members will be interested in the new Federal Defense Public Works program which has been launched to provide schools and other community facilities and services necessary to the health, safety, or welfare of persons engaged in defense activities. This program was authorized by passage of the Lanham Bill, H. R. 4545, the general purposes of which were endorsed by the National Board of Managers at the Boston convention.

> Overcrowded schools and overtaxed public health and welfare facilities, due to phenomenal growth of population in defense areas, have been problems of particular concern in many communities, which may now look to the Federal Government for help.

The program, for which the Congress of the United States has appropriated $150,000,000, is being administered by the Federal Works Agency. Types of projects for which local communities may secure federal aid are schools, hospitals, waterworks, recreational facilities, sewers, and public sanitary facilities. In the program there is no fixed amount either for the direct federal grant or for the local community's participation; instead, the Federal Works Administrator is authorized, with the approval of the President, to determine the amount of grant justified in each individual situation.

President Roosevelt's approval of twenty-six projects in several states, including four for school facilities, was announced recently by Federal Works Administrator John M. Carmody. This approval clears the way for the prompt letting of contracts and an early beginning of actual construction.

Additional information about the program may be obtained by writing to the Director of Information, Federal Works Agency, Washington, D. C.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 9 OCTOBER Number 2

Published monthly from September through May, bimonthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Subscription price: 20 cents a year.

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

A Clarion Call

THE year 1941 is nine months spent. In those nine months the toll of death from accidents in the United States has risen at a rate that will mean the loss of more than 100,000 human lives for the year if this steady and menacing rise is not checked. Children particularly are endangered by the heavily increased traffic that rolls in ceaseless procession, night and day, on our streets and our highways. This threat to our children must be met with instant and unflagging opposition. Now that it has been recognized and proclaimed, it can be so met. And none can question our plain duty to rise to the challenge with all the strength of united purpose, concerted action, and invincible determination.

What Has Been Done

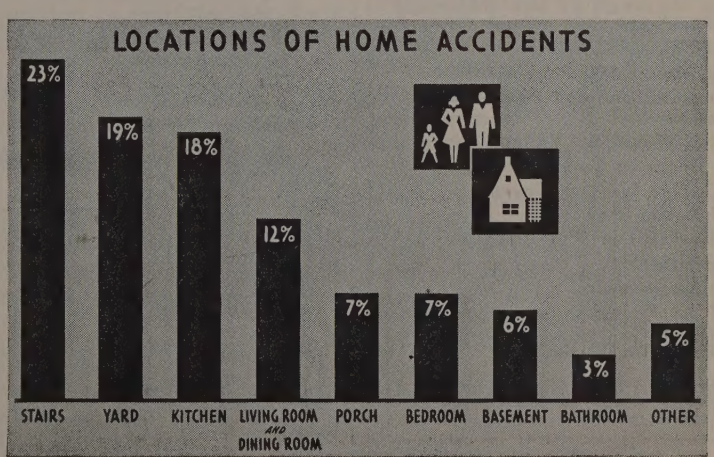
ON September 9 an Emergency Safety Conference, called by the National Safety Council, met in New York at the request of President Roosevelt, who by public proclamation on August 18 made the danger known to the nation and called upon every citizen, in public or private capacity, to ACT in the matter, individually and in cooperation with others. One hundred and twenty-five national organizations were represented at this conference. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers was one of them. As a result of the deliberations, the committee on Child Safety Education recommended renewed emphasis on driver training, safety instruction for pedestrians, and bicycle safety education. Especial stress was laid on school buses: proper conditioning, careful selection of drivers, and prevention of overcrowding. The perils of inadequate facilities for safe living, especially for children, in the "mushroom" communities which have sprung up around defense industries were pointed out and the resulting needs emphasized.

What Must Be Done

IN this, as in everything else, the first concern of the parent-teacher association is the child. The increase in the accidental death rate among children is the signal to the P.T.A. everywhere that the time for augmented action has come.

> This is not a task for Safety chairmen alone; it is a task for every member everywhere. At the September Board Meeting of the National Congress a subcommittee on safety submitted the opinion that the accident toll *can be quickly and materially reduced* if individual members of the parent-teacher association assume personal responsibility for the safety of themselves and their associates and if official and citizen effort is coordinated in every community.

NO group is powerless to help; no individual is devoid of the ability to serve. The fundamental principles of accident prevention are simple; they are easily available; they can be learned and passed on — to the children themselves, to parents, to grandparents, to teachers, and to the man on the street. An unlimited campaign for safety education will not only prevent thousands of heartbreaking tragedies, with every one of which the light goes out of someone's life; it will also make an inestimable contribution to national defense both now and in the years to come. The most precious assets of our country's future are our boys and girls. Shall we continue to sacrifice them *needlessly* to the relentless demands of modern mechanized life? It is chiefly to the P.T.A. that the nation will look for the answer. We cannot and we will not fail our children.



ARE *YOU* ON A SAFETY COMMITTEE?

IF you are a safety chairman or a member of a safety committee you will find the new Safety Manual an exceedingly interesting addition to our growing list of excellent parent-teacher publications. From cover to cover its 56 pages deal practically and authoritatively with

- *Safety at home*
- *Safety education in schools and colleges*
- *Safety in the community*
- *Planning a safety program*
- *Teaching others how to drive*

It contains valuable, usable information which every person interested in safety education needs to have.

An allotment of free copies sufficient to supply one Safety Manual to each local association has been distributed to state congresses. Local groups anxious to have more than one copy to work with may purchase extra copies from the state office.

RECOMMENDED . . . . . By the National Publications Chairman as excellent reference reading for those who are planning to participate in American Education Week programs:

Schools for Democracy
We, the Citizens
The Child in His Community
Findings and Platform of the 1941 National Convention
NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

One and Inseparable—The Monthly Message of the National President
Nothing But a Student
Does Money Make the Man?
When Children and Books Get Together
Youth Would Be Valiant
We Begin to Talk
Character for Our Times
Red Letter Day
Improving Our Rural Schools
Sound Health
The Responsibles.
P. T. A. Frontiers, study courses, program outlines, book reviews, poems, illustrations.
Be sure to read page 38—where we see ourselves as others see us!

SPEAK UP *for the* NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER *Magazine*!

Official Magazine of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

TO MARKET WE GO

"TO market, to market, to buy a fat pig; home again, home again, jiggety jig . . . " No, hold on; we aren't going home yet. We don't stop with a fat pig any more, since we've heard about the vitamins we need for health and learned that the body may be actually hungry even when appetite is entirely satisfied. We stay right here at market until we have filled our basket with *all* the foods that modern experts on nutrition tell us we must have if we are to keep ourselves and our families sturdy and strong. This authoritative article, the third in the study course *Defense Begins at Home*, gives such clear and definite directions and standards to use in marketing for health that the most inexperienced shopper can't go wrong.

THERE IS STILL TIME

In your busy and responsible life as a local leader, have you overlooked this new study course *Defense Begins at Home?* There is still time to start the course! The first article appeared in the September issue; the second is in the current October issue; and the third, referred to above, will appear in the November number, which will reach subscribers November 1.

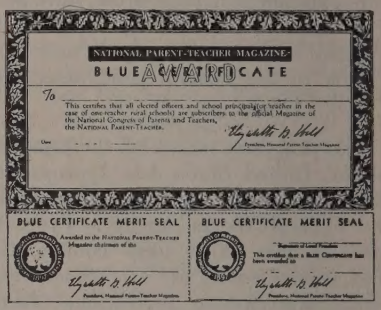
If you start the course now, using the material in the September issue, you will be able to plan ahead, for you will have several of the articles and outlines on hand in advance of the time scheduled for their use. The full list of articles on which the course is based is:

- *The Homemaker Takes Over*
- *Does Money Make the Man?*
- *To Market We Go*
- *Who Is to Blame?*
- *The Tightened Belt*
- *What Shall We Do Next?*
- *All Out for Homes*
- *Youth Marches On*

When sending your subscriptions, mark across the order blank "Include study course articles as announced in the *Bulletin*," and we will see to it that you get copies containing all of the articles and outlines published to date.

HONOR ROLL

IS your association going to be among the first to win a Blue or a Gold Certificate? We shall begin announcing the names of the first fifty associations to win Blue Certificates and the first fifty to win Gold Certificates in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. The associations will be listed in the order in which they have earned the certificates. Which association will be first? second? third? Watch this page for further news!



The certificates are awarded for fulfillment of the following requirements:

A *Blue Certificate* to each local association whose elected officers and school principal (or teacher in the case of one-teacher, rural schools) are subscribers.

A *Gold Certificate* to each local association in which all elected officers and chairmen of all standing committees are subscribers.

The subscriptions to be counted are those which do not expire until the publication of the April 1942 issue or later. For example, if a subscriber is entitled to the April 1942 issue on his subscription, the subscription may be counted.

As soon as a local association is entitled to the certificate, the secretary of the association should apply for it by writing to the state chairman of the *National Parent-Teacher*.